

Property Address 11111 Crain Highway (U.S. 301), Cheltenham, Prince George's County
Owner Name/Address Trustees of Cheltenham United Methodist Church, 11111 Crain Highway, Cheltenham, MD
20623 Year Built 1879

Description:

The Cheltenham United Methodist Church was previously surveyed by the Maryland-National Capital Parks and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) in 1974 and by the Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission in 1985. Since the time of the previous survey, the property has not been altered.

National Register Evaluation:

The Cheltenham United Methodist Church, constructed in 1879, is a good example of rural church architecture with Gothic Revival and Folk Victorian influences. Thus, the structure is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C, evidenced by such character-defining features as the board-and-batten siding, round-arch windows, fishscale shingles, and bell tower. The church and the surrounding cemetery retain good integrity of materials and setting, despite the property's location on U.S. 301. The church is not eligible under Criterion A, as research conducted indicates no association with any historic events or trends significant in the development of national, state or local history. Historic research indicates that the property has no association with persons who have made specific contributions to history, and therefore, it does not meet Criterion B.

The cemetery on the property contributes to the significance of the site, as a component of the historic setting of the church. The cemetery does not, however, meet Criteria Consideration D, as historic research indicates that the site does not contain graves of persons of transcendent importance, nor does it contain grave markers of distinctive design. In addition, the site has no association with historic events or broad patterns of history and has no potential to yield important information. Finally, the property has no known potential to yield important information, and therefore, is not eligible under Criterion D.

Verbal Boundary Description and Justification:

The National Register boundary of the Cheltenham United Methodist Church follow the current property lines of Parcel 134 on Prince George's County Tax Map 127. This parcel is bounded on the east by U.S. 301 and on all other sides by adjacent tax parcels. The church was constructed on a .80 hectare (2-acre) lot, which remains the property size. The boundary includes the church, the Sunday School building, and the cemetery, all of which contribute to the significance of the property.

MHT CONCURRENCE:

Eligibility ☒ recommended ☐ not recommended

Criteria ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D Considerations ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☐ None

Comments:

Suzanne Pickens

07/21/1997

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

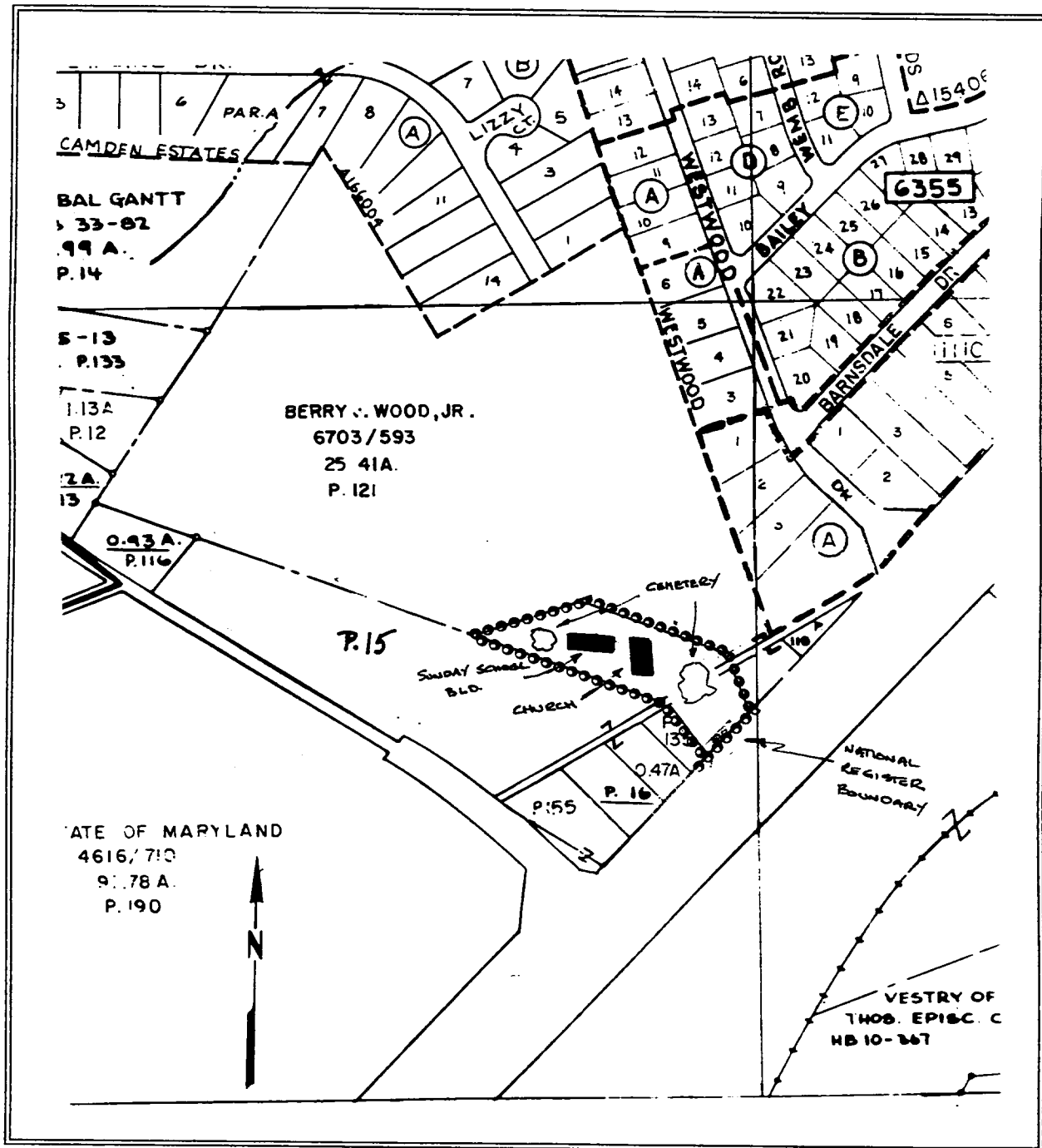
Date Reviewer, NR program

Date

Preparer:

P.A.C. Spero & Company
September 1996

Resource Sketch Map and National Register Boundary Map:



Preparer:
P.A.C. Spero & Company
September 1996

U.S. 301 South Corridor

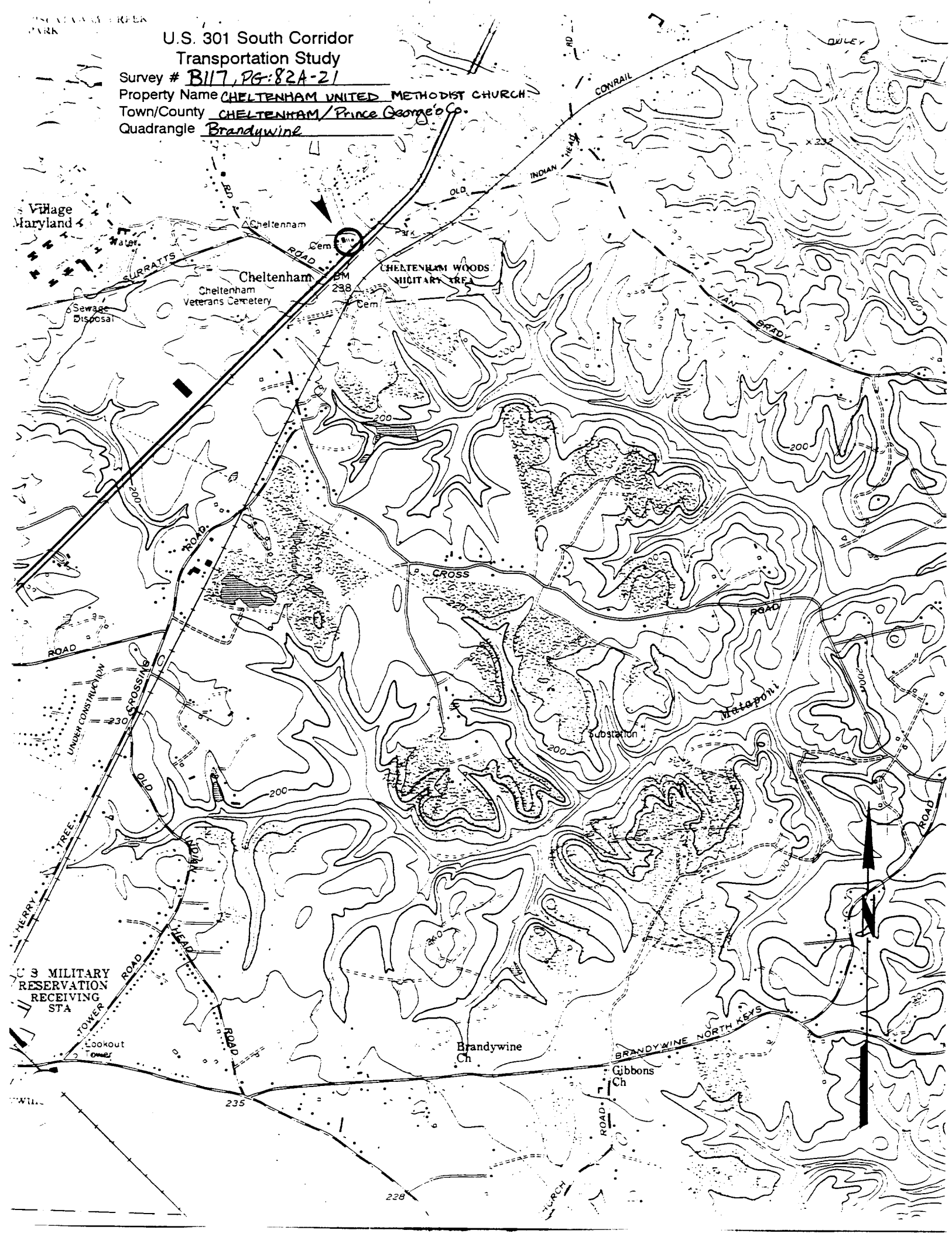
Transportation Study

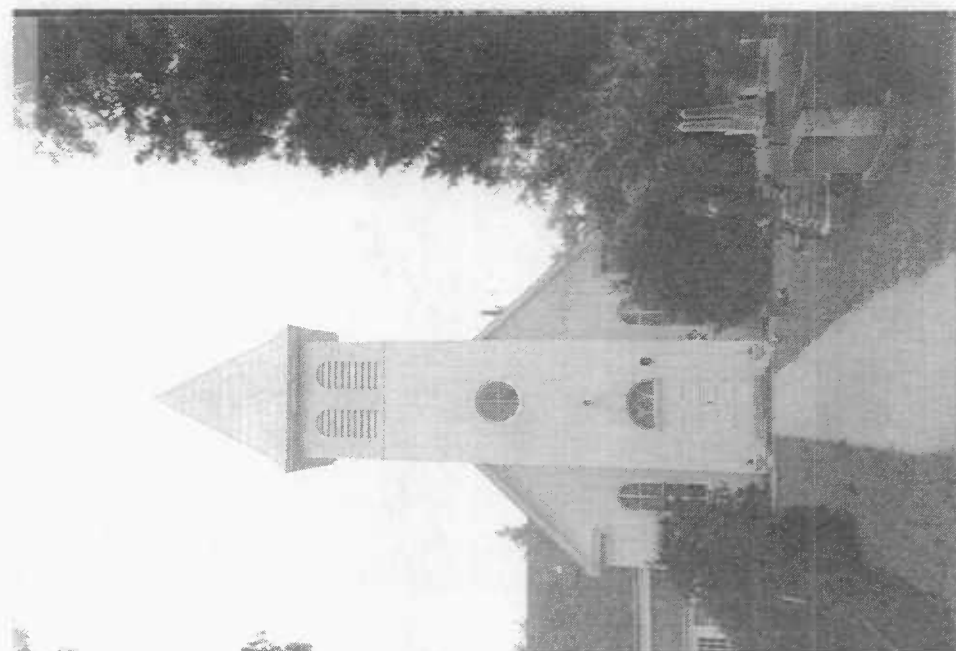
Survey # B117, PG: 82A-21

Property Name CHEL TENHAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Town/County CHEL TENHAM / Prince George's Co.

Quadrangle Brandywine









PG:82A-21

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #82A-21 Building Date: 1879
Building Name: Cheltenham Methodist Church
Location: 11111 SW Crain Highway, Cheltenham, Maryland
Private/Religious/Occupied/Excellent/Inaccessible

Description:

The Cheltenham (Westwood) Methodist Church is located on the west side of Maryland Route 301 at Cheltenham. It is a frame (board-and-batten) gable-roofed building; the main facade is the south gable end. Centered between the cornice returns on this south gable end is a projecting three-story bell tower. Entry into the tower is through five-panel double doors, surmounted by an elliptical fanlight. The third level of the tower is adorned with fishscale shingles, and there are two round-arched louvered windows on each face of the tower. The pyramidal roof of the tower is covered with patterned tin. The sides of the church are four bays long. The windows are round-arched, 4/4 double-sash, and filled with opaque stained glass. At the rear of the church there is a small gable-roofed altar projection with returned cornice and with one large round-arched window flanked by two smaller ones. At the northeast corner of the building is a corner stone which reads "M.E.C. October 30, 1879." The foundations are brick. Attached at right angles to the northwest corner of the church is a two-story five-bay board-and-batten Sunday School wing. To the south and east of the church is a graveyard.

Significance:

The Cheltenham Methodist Church is a good example of late nineteenth-century rural church architecture, unusual in its board-and batten siding. The church, originally known as Westwood, was built on a two-acre lot deeded by Julius H. Pyles out of Westwood, his home farm. The cornerstone was laid on the 20th of October, 1879, and the church itself was reportedly built by members of the congregation. Enoch Pratt, Baltimore philanthropist, is reported to have contributed to the financing of the church construction. The church was a simple gable-roofed meeting-house structure, to which the bell tower was added in 1913, and the altar a decade or so later. In the summer of 1924, a tornado dislodged the church structure from its foundations. The building was repaired, and steel braces were installed to reinforce the structure. In 1945 a new Sunday school wing was attached to the church at right angles at its northwest corner; it has board-and-batten siding in keeping with the siding of the original church building. The church retains much of its historic setting, and is a noticeable landmark in a still rural section of Prince George's County.

Acreage: 2 acres

Magi No.

DOE ___yes ___no

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Westwood Methodist Church

and/or common Cheltenham Methodist Church

2. Location

street & number 11111 S W Crain Highway (U.S. Route 301) ___ not for publication

city, town Cheltenham ___ vicinity of congressional district 5

state Md. county Prince George's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	X ___ occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
X ___ building(s)	X ___ private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	___ private residence
___ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	___ entertainment	X ___ religious
___ object	___ in process	X ___ yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	X ___ not applicable	___ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Trustees of Cheltenham United Methodist Church

street & number 11111 S w Crain Highway telephone no.: 782-4260

city, town Cheltenham state and zip code Md. 20623

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. P.G. County Courthouse liber ATB#1

street & number Main Street folio 556

city, town Upper Marlboro state Md.

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title P.G. County Inventory of Historic Sites

date 1974 ___ federal ___ state X ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records History Division, MNCPPC

city, town Riverdale state Md.

7. Description

Survey No. P.G. #82A-21

Condition

☒ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

Check one

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site

☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Cheltenham (Westwood) Methodist Church is located on the west side of Maryland Route 301 at Cheltenham. It is a frame (board-and-batten) gable-roofed building, ca. 26' x 40'; the main facade is the south gable end. Centered between the cornice returns on this south gable end is a projecting three-story bell tower. Entry into the tower is through five-panel double doors, surmounted by an elliptical fanlight. Above the doors at second level is a four-pane round window. The third level of the tower is adorned with fishscale shingles, and there are two round-arched louvered windows on each face of the tower. The pyramidal roof of the tower is covered with patterned tin.

The sides of the church are four bays long. The windows are round-arched, 4/4 double-sash, and filled with opaque stained glass. There is an identical round-arched flanking window on each side of the tower in the south gable end.

At the rear of the church there is a small gable-roofed altar projection with returned cornice and with one large round-arched window flanked by two smaller ones. Unlike the side windows, the stained glass in these altar windows is leaded, and arranged in decorative panes. At the northeast corner of the building is a corner stone which reads "M.E.C. October 30, 1879." The foundations are brick.

The interior is panelled with narrow vertical wainscoting; three chandeliers, formerly lit with kerosene and now electrified, hang above the center aisle. Horizontal steel trusses run diagonally across the sanctuary between the rafters, bracing and reinforcing the structure.

Attached at right angles to the northwest corner of the church is a two-story five-bay board-and-batten Sunday School wing. To the south and east of the church is a graveyard; there is another small graveyard to the west. The approach to the church is a pebble drive through a grove of large old trees.

8. Significance

Survey No. P.G. #82A-21

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) local history

Specific dates 1879 Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Cheltenham Methodist Church is a good example of late nineteenth-century rural church architecture, unusual in its board-and batten siding. It was established in 1879 to serve the population which was then growing up along the newly-built Baltimore and Potomac Railroad at Cheltenham. The church, originally known as Westwood, was built on a two-acre lot deeded by Julius H. Pyles out of Westwood, his home farm. The cornerstone was laid on the 20th of October, 1879, and the church itself was reportedly built by members of the congregation. The dedication was attended by Enoch Pratt, Baltimore philanthropist and founder of the neighboring reform school, who is reported to have contributed to the financing of the Cheltenham church construction.¹

By 1895 the Westwood Church was part of the Forestville Methodist Circuit, which included also the Forestville Church, Bells Church in Camp Springs, and Grace Church in Cedarville; the minister was also responsible for services at the House of Reformation a short distance to the northwest of Westwood Church.²

The church as constructed in 1879 was a simple gable-roofed meeting-house structure. The bell tower was added in 1913, and the altar was added a decade or so later. In the summer of 1924, a tornado which caused severe damage in the Cheltenham area dislodged the church structure from its foundations. The building was repaired, and steel braces were installed to reinforce the structure.³ In 1945 a Sunday school wing was constructed, attached to the church at right angles at its northwest corner; it has

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. P.G. #82A-21

Of. notes, Item #8

Of. Chain of Title

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 2 acres TM 127: parcel 134Quadrangle name Brandywine, Section B

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM referencesA

Zone			Easting			Northing			

B

Zone			Easting			Northing			

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E

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F

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G

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan Pearlorganization Historic Preservation Commissiondate March 1985street & number c/o County Planning, MNCPPCtelephone 952-3521city or town Riverdalestate Md.

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

1703834608

P.A. 82A-21

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM
for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

1. NAME				
COMMON: Cheltenham United Methodist Church				
ALTERNATE: Cheltenham United Methodist Church				
2. LOCATION				
STREET AND NUMBER: Rte. 301 north of Surratts Road				
CITY OR TOWN: Brandywine				
STATE: Maryland			COUNTY: Prince George's	
3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESERVATION (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY				
OWNER'S NAME: Trustees of Cheltenham United Methodist Church				
STREET AND NUMBER: _____				
CITY OR TOWN: _____			STATE: _____	
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Prince George's County Courthouse				
STREET AND NUMBER: _____				
CITY OR TOWN: Upper Marlboro			STATE: Maryland	
TITLE REFERENCE OF CURRENT DEED (Book & Pg. #): _____				
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS				
TITLE OF SURVEY: None				
DATE OF SURVEY: _____				
<input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: _____				
STREET AND NUMBER: _____				
CITY OR TOWN: _____			STATE: _____	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The church is a frame building with a gabled facade. The sheathing is board and batten. There is a central porch tower of three story elevation. The door and window openings are round arched. The top story of the tower is shingled, with double, round headed, louvered windows on each face. The cornice is returned into the gable ends.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

6. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> losophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humon- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> itorian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES			
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	
NW	°	'	"		°	'	"	
NE	°	'	"		°	'	"	
SE	°	'	"		°	'	"	
SW	°	'	"		°	'	"	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Christopher Owens, Park Historian		DATE 6 Aug 74
ORGANIZATION M-NCPPC		
STREET AND NUMBER: 8787 Georgia Avenue		
CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring	STATE Maryland	

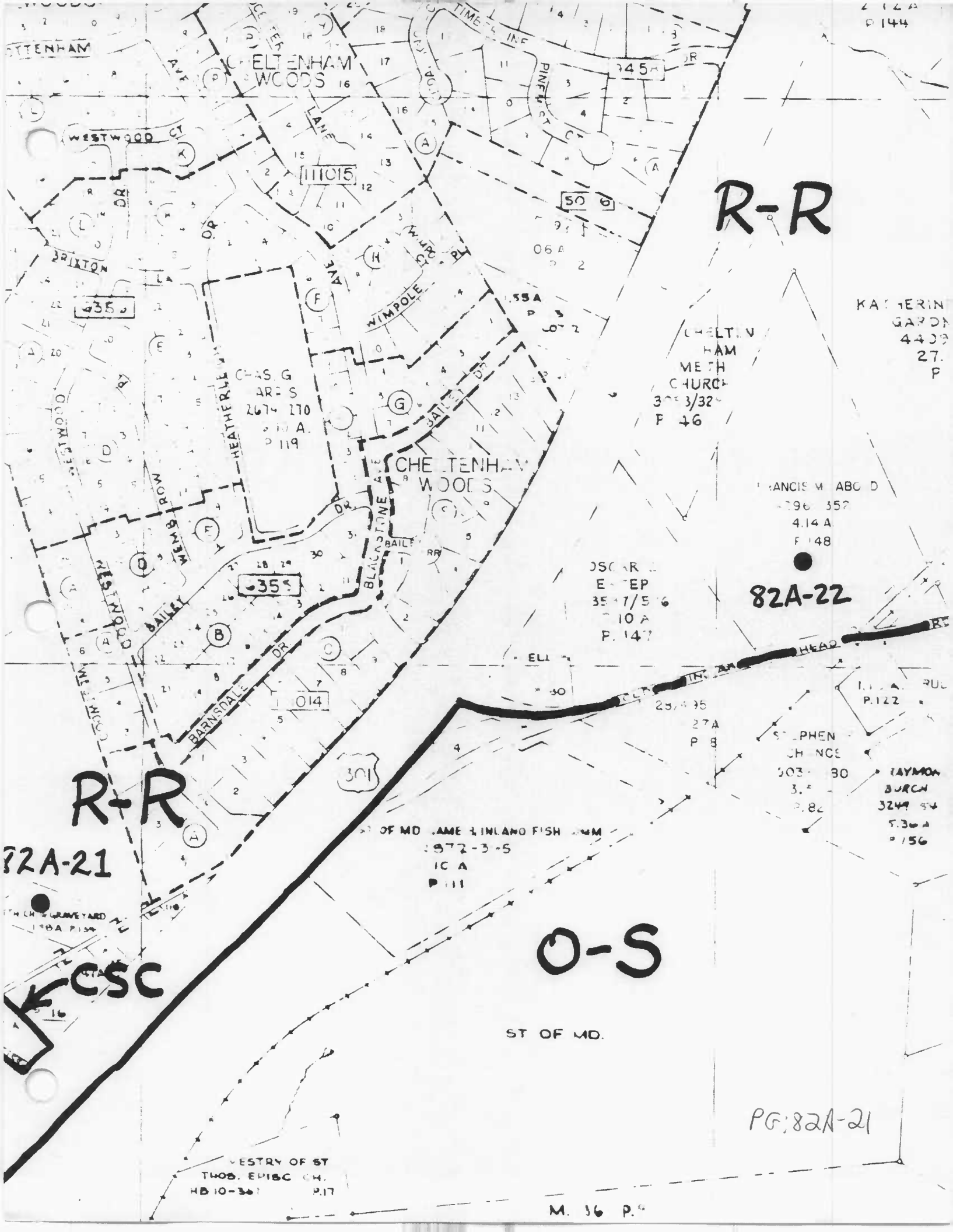
12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



212A
D 144

R-R

KATHERIN
GARDN
4439
27.
P

CHELTHAM
HAM
METH
CHURCH
3/3/32
P 46

FRANCIS M. ABC D
296 352
4.14 A
P 148

JOSCAR E.
EP
3547/516
10 A
P 147

82A-22

I. J. A. RUL
P. 122

STEPHEN
CHANCE
503-30
3.2
P. 82

TAYMON
BURN
3249 54
5.30 A
P 156

ST OF MD. NAME 2 INLAND FISH
1972-3-5
10 A
P 111

O-S

ST OF MD.

PG: 82A-21

VESTRY OF ST
THOS. EPISC CH.
HD 10-361 P. 17



P.G. #82A-21

Cheltenham Methodist Church
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
Southeast 3/4 elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



P.G. #82A-21

Cheltenham Methodist Church
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
February 1985
Southwest 3/4 elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



P.G.#82A-21

Cheltenham Methodist Church
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
February 1985
North elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



P.G.#82A-21

Cheltenham Methodist Church

Prince George's county, MD

Susan G. Pearl

February 1985

South elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



P.G.#82A-21

Cheltenham Methodist Church

Prince George's County, MD

Susan G. Pearl

April 1985

Interior

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



NAME CHELTENHAM METH CHURCH

82A-21

LOCATION Rt 301 CHELTENHAM, Md

FACADE E

PHOTO TAKEN 8/13/74 MAWYER



NAME PARSONAGE? CHELTENHAM U.M. CH. PG:82A-21
LOCATION Rt 301 NEAR FRANK TIPPETT RD CHELTENHAM, MD
FACADE SE
PHOTO TAKEN 8/13/74 MDWYER



NAME CHELTENHAM METH CHURCH - PARSONAGE #82A-21
LOCATION Rt 301 CHELTENHAM, Md
FACADE E
PHOTO TAKEN 8/13/74 MDWYER